WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1. A system for multimedia on demand, the system comprising:

2   a mass storage device, the mass storage device adapted to receive and store a

3   multimedia content item;

4   a processor, the processor coupled to the mass storage device; and

5   a memory, the memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a multimedia-

6   on-demand data table and multimedia-on-demand instructions, the multimedia-on-demand

7   data table including

8   a multimedia content identifier field to store a multimedia content identifier,

9   the multimedia content identifier to correspond to a multimedia content item stored

10   on the mass storage device, and

11   a multimedia content usage indicator field to store a multimedia content usage

12   indicator, the multimedia content usage indicator associated with the multimedia

13   content item stored on the mass storage device,

14   the multimedia-on-demand instructions to be executed by the processor, the

15   multimedia-on-demand instructions including instructions to

16   automatically receive the multimedia content item, and

17   send a multimedia-on-demand usage message, the multimedia-on-demand

18   usage message based at least in part on the multimedia content usage indicator.

1   2. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include

2   instructions to

3   receive the multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is less than a real

4   time transmission rate; and

5   write the multimedia content item to the mass storage device.

1   3. The system of claim 1, wherein the instructions to receive the multimedia content

2   at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate includes instructions to

3   automatically receive the multimedia content at a transmission rate that is less than a real

4   time transmission rate.

1   4. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is based at

2   least in part on whether the multimedia content item associated with the multimedia

3   content usage indicator was read from the mass storage device and sent to an information

4   appliance for playback of multimedia content item.

1   5. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is adapted

2   to indicate whether the multimedia content item was at least in part sent to an information

3   appliance for playback.

1   6. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is based at

2   least in part on whether the multimedia content item associated with the multimedia

3   content usage indicator was read from the mass storage device and sent to an information

4   appliance for non-volatile recording of the multimedia content item.

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1   7. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is adapted

2   to indicate whether the multimedia content item was at least in part sent to an information

3   appliance for recording to a non-volatile data storage medium.

1   8. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes

2   data corresponding to the multimedia content identifier and the multimedia content usage

3   indicator.

1   9. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes

2   the multimedia content identifier and the multimedia content usage indicator.

1   10. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes

2   playback cost data associated with the multimedia content usage indicator.

1   11. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes

2   purchase cost data associated with the multimedia content usage indicator.

1   12. The system of claim 1, further comprising a data switch coupled to the mass

2   storage device.

1   13. The system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of broadband

2   communication links coupled to the data switch.

1   14. The system of claim 13, further comprising a plurality of information appliances,

2   each information appliance of the plurality of information appliances coupled to a

3   broadband communication link.

1   15. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content item is selected from the

2   group consisting of a movie, a television program, a song, an album, an electronic book.

1   16. The system of claim 1, further comprising an input/output port coupled to the mass

2   storage device to communicate with a multimedia recording device.

1 17. A system for multimedia on demand, the system comprising:

2 a mass storage device, the mass storage device adapted to receive and store a

3 plurality of multimedia content items;

4 a processor, the processor coupled to the mass storage device; and

5 a memory, the memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a multimedia-

6 on-demand data table and multimedia-on-demand instructions,

7 the multimedia-on-demand data table including a plurality of multimedia

8 content usage records, each multimedia content usage record adapted to include a

9 multimedia content usage indicator field to store a multimedia content usage

10 indicator, the multimedia content usage indicator associated with a multimedia

11 content item stored on the mass storage device, and

12 the multimedia-on-demand instructions to be executed the processor, the

13 multimedia-on-demand instructions including instructions to

14 automatically receive the plurality of multimedia content items, and

15 send a multimedia-on-demand usage message, the multimedia-on-

16 demand usage message to be based at least in part on the multimedia-on-

17 demand data table.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein each multimedia content usage record is adapted

2 to include a multimedia content identifier field to store a multimedia content identifier, the

3 multimedia content identifier to correspond to a multimedia content item of the plurality of

4 multimedia content items stored on the mass storage device.

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1   19. The system of claim 17, wherein a multimedia content usage indicator is selected

2   from the group consisting of a content played indicator, a content purchased indicator, and

3   a content unused indicator.

1   20. The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia content usage message is to be

2   sent to a multimedia-on-demand service provider.

1   21. The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include

2   instructions to receive a multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is less than a

3   real time transmission rate.

4   22. The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include

5   instructions to receive a multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is different

6   from a playback rate of the multimedia content item.

1   23. The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include

2   instructions to:

3   receive a portion of a multimedia content item, the portion of the multimedia

4   content item being less than the entirety of the multimedia content item, the portion of the

5   multimedia content item being received at a transmission rate, the transmission rate being

6   different from the playback rate; and

7   make a determination that continuous playback of the entirety of the multimedia

8   content item can begin prior to receipt of the entirety of the multimedia content item.

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1   24. The system of claim 23, wherein the determination is based at least in part on the

2   transmission rate and the playback rate.

1   25. The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include

2   instructions to receive the plurality of multimedia content items from a multimedia-on-

3   demand service provider, the multimedia-on-demand service provider selected from the

4   group consisting of a direct broadcast satellite television service provider, a cable

5   television service provider, a terrestrial broadcast television service provider, a wireless

6   broadband data service provider, and a wired broadband data service provider.

1   26. A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:

2   automatically receiving a first multimedia content item;

3   storing the first multimedia content item;

4   modifying a data table to include a first multimedia content item identifier, the first

5   multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the first multimedia content item; and

6   sending a multimedia usage report, the multimedia usage report based at least in

7   part on the data table.

1   27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:

2   receiving a multimedia content item usage instruction related to the first

3   multimedia content item;

4   directing usage of the first multimedia content item based at least in part on the

5   multimedia content item usage instruction; and

6   updating the data table based at least in part on the multimedia content item usage

7   instruction.

1   28. The method of claim 27, wherein the multimedia content item usage instruction is

2   selected from the group consisting of an instruction to playback the multimedia content

3   item as part of a multimedia content item viewing transaction, an instruction to export the

4   multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item purchase transaction, an

5   instruction to store the multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item

6   deferred viewing transaction, and an instruction to allow use of the multimedia content

7   item as part of a multimedia content item licensing transaction.

1   29. The method of claim 27, wherein updating the data table based at least in part on

2   the multimedia content item usage instruction includes storing a first multimedia content

3   item usage indicator, the first multimedia content item usage indicator associated with the

4   first multimedia content identifier.

1   30. The method of claim 29, wherein the multimedia usage report is based at least in

2   part on the first multimedia content item usage indicator.

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1   31. The method of claim 30, wherein the first multimedia content item usage indicator

2   is selected from the group consisting of a content played indicator, a content purchased

3   indicator, and a content licensed indicator.

1   32. The method of claim 26, further comprising:

2   automatically receiving a second multimedia content item, the second

3   multimedia content item to replace the first multimedia content item;

4   storing the second multimedia content item; and

5   updating the data table to include a second multimedia content item identifier,

6   the second multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the second

7   multimedia content item.

1   33. The method of claim 32, wherein storing the second multimedia content item

2   includes deleting the first multimedia content item.

1   34. The method of claim 32, wherein updating the data table to include a second

2   multimedia content item identifier includes deleting the first multimedia content identifier.

1   35. The method of claim 26, wherein automatically receiving a first multimedia content

2   item includes receiving the first multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is

3   different from a playback rate of the first multimedia content item.

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1   36. A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:

2   automatically receiving a portion of a multimedia content item at a transmission

3   rate, the portion of the multimedia content item being less than the entirety of the

4   multimedia content item, the transmission rate being less than the playback rate of the

5   multimedia content item;

6   storing the portion of the multimedia content item; and

7   making a determination that continuous playback of the entirety of the multimedia

8   content item can begin prior to the receipt of the entirety of the multimedia content item.

1   37. The method of claim 36, further comprising:

2   modifying a data table to include a multimedia content item identifier, the

3   multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the multimedia content item; and

4   sending a multimedia usage report, the multimedia usage report based at least in

5   part on the data table.

1   38. A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:

2   automatically sending a plurality of multimedia content items and a plurality of

3   multimedia content item storage identifiers, wherein the automatically sending is based at

4   least in part on a subscriber profile, each multimedia content item of the plurality of

5   multimedia content items corresponding to a multimedia content item storage identifier of

6   the plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers; and

7   receiving a multimedia content usage report, the multimedia content usage report

8   including a multimedia content item usage indicator, the multimedia content item usage

9   indicator corresponding to a multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content

10   items.

1   39. The method of claim 38, wherein each multimedia content item storage identifier

2   includes a multimedia content item identifier and a multimedia content item storage

3   position identifier.

1   40. The method of claim 39, wherein automatically sending a plurality of multimedia

2   content items and a plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers includes:

3   sending a first multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content

4   items, the first multimedia content item having a first multimedia content item identifier

5   and a first multimedia content item storage position, and

6   subsequently sending a second multimedia content item of the plurality of

7   multimedia content items, the second multimedia content item having a second multimedia

8   content identifier and the first multimedia content item storage position.

1   41. A computer-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions to be executed by a

2   processor for multimedia on demand services, the plurality of instructions comprising

3   instructions to:

4   automatically send, based at least in part on a subscriber profile, a plurality of

5   multimedia content items and a plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers,

6   each multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items to correspond to

7   a multimedia content item storage identifier of the plurality of multimedia content item

8   storage identifiers; and

9   receive a multimedia content usage report, the multimedia content usage report

10   adapted to include a multimedia content item usage indicator, the multimedia content item

11   usage indicator adapted to correspond to a multimedia content item of the plurality of

12   multimedia content items.

1   42. The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein

2   each multimedia content item storage identifier includes a multimedia content item

3   identifier and a multimedia content item storage position identifier; and

4   the instructions to automatically send a plurality of multimedia content items and a

5   plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers includes instructions to:

6   send a first multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content

7   items, the first multimedia content item having a first multimedia content item

8   identifier and a first multimedia content item storage position, and

9   subsequently send a second multimedia content item of the plurality of

10   multimedia content items, the second multimedia content item having a second

11   multimedia content identifier and the first multimedia content item storage position.

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